3. Wockhardt Ltd., India-Nadifloxacin. 1% Cream (Antibacterial)

4. Eli Lilly Company, USA-Tadalafil Tablet (for erectile dysfunction)

(c) After the expiry of the term of the EMR or from the date of grant of patent or rejection of the product patent applications, whichever is earlier, the EMR shall have no effect. As per the provision of the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004, the applications in respect of which exclusive rights have been granted before the 1st day of January, 2005 are required to be examined. This is being done by the Patent Office as per the law.

Depletion of iron-ore resources in the country

*310. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of serious depletion in the iron-ore resources of the country due to substantial increase in export of iron-ore and fines in recent years;

(b) whether Government are aware of the surge in investment of steel making in the country, particularly in the Eastern Sector; and

(c) if so, the steps being proposed by Government to stop, reduce or control export of iron-ore and fines?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The export is limited to surplus fines after meeting the domestic requirement and the long term commitments in the case of lumpy ore.

Facilities to BRO personnel

*311. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the personnel of Border Road Organisation (BRO), though work in critical border areas, do not get the facilities of ration, uniform, etc., commensurate to their counterparts in Defence services;

(b) if so, the details thereof in comparative terms;

(c) whether there is any demand/proposal to bring parity between them; and

(d) if so, whether Government support such demand?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Border Roads Development Board (BRDB) was set up in March 1960 for the development of roads in the North and North Eastern border areas of the country. The executive arm of the BRDB is the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), whose workforce comprises both of Army personnel and Civilian personnel known as the General Reserve Engineers Force (GREF).

2. Unlike the Army which is a fighting force, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) constructs and maintains roads in border areas and other parts of the country. The Army is governed by the Defence Services Regulations and the Border Roads Organisation is governed by the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeals) Regulations, 1965. There was a demand from the personnel of the BRO for parity with the Army. This issue was examined by the Committee set up by the Department of Defence, which submitted its report on 6th September, 2000. The Committee made the following recommendations of which most were accepted. The status is indicated below:

Recommendation	Status
Extension of North-East concessions package	Accepted
Authorisation of High-Altitude Allowance	Accepted
Authorisation of Double House Rent Allowance in the Kashmir Valley	Accepted
Removal of disparity in Ration Scales	Accepted, except in the case of static units
Authorisation of Concession Voucher/ Free Pass by Rail	One per year subject to the condition that 50% of the rail fare is borne by the person concerned, and in circumstances such as marriage, ill-health and death.
Grant of Island Special Allowance	Accepted
Payment of Ex-Gratia lump sum compensation to the families of Employees Dying in Harness	Enhanced to Rs. 2 lakh from Rs. 1 lakh
Enhancement of Casual Leave	Not Accepted.

A comparative table of various allowances that are available to the Army and *GREF is as under:—

	Army	*GREF
Ration	As authorized by the Army scale of rations	As authorized by the Army scale for all personnel, except 25 static units.
High Altitude Allowance	Entitled	Entitled
Double House Rent Allowance in Kashmir Valley	Entitled to separated family accommodation	Entitled
Grant of Islands Special Allowance	Entitled	Entitled
Uniform	Entitled	Entitled
City Compensatory Allowance	Army is entitled to 100% of the applicable rate	GREF is entitled to 50% of the applicable rate
Siachen Allowance	Rs. 7000/- per month for officers and subordinate ranks at Rs. 4650/- per month	Officers Rs. 2500/- per month and subordinate ranks at Rs. 1500/- per month
Leave	Annual Leave 60 days Casual Leave 20 days for officers and 30 days for subordinates	Earned Leave 30 days Casual Leave 12 days (in field) 8 days (at HQrs) Half Pay Leave of 20 days
Concession Vouchers	Entitled to 6 numbers in one year	Only one per year subject to the condition that 50% of the rail fare is to be borne by the person concerned, and in circumstances such as marriage, ill-health & death
Group Insurance Scheme	For officers Rs. 8 lakh and for other ranks Rs. 3.75 lakh	(covered under Central Government Employees Group Insurance Scheme Gp 'A' 1.2 lakhs Gp 'B' 0.40 lakhs Gp 'C' 0.30 lakhs Gp 'D' 0.15 lakhs
Payment of Ex-gratia Compensation	Rs. 5 lakh in accidental death, Rs. 7.5 lakh for death in border skirmishes and Rs. 10 lakh for loss of life in war	Payment to personnel killed during hostilities as *ex-gratia* payment are at the following rates: between 20th August 1993 to 30th April 1995 Rs. 1 lakh and from 1st May 1995 onwards Rs. 2 lakh.

*General Reserve Engineer Force